



VOL. 9 NO. 3.

WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 1901.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

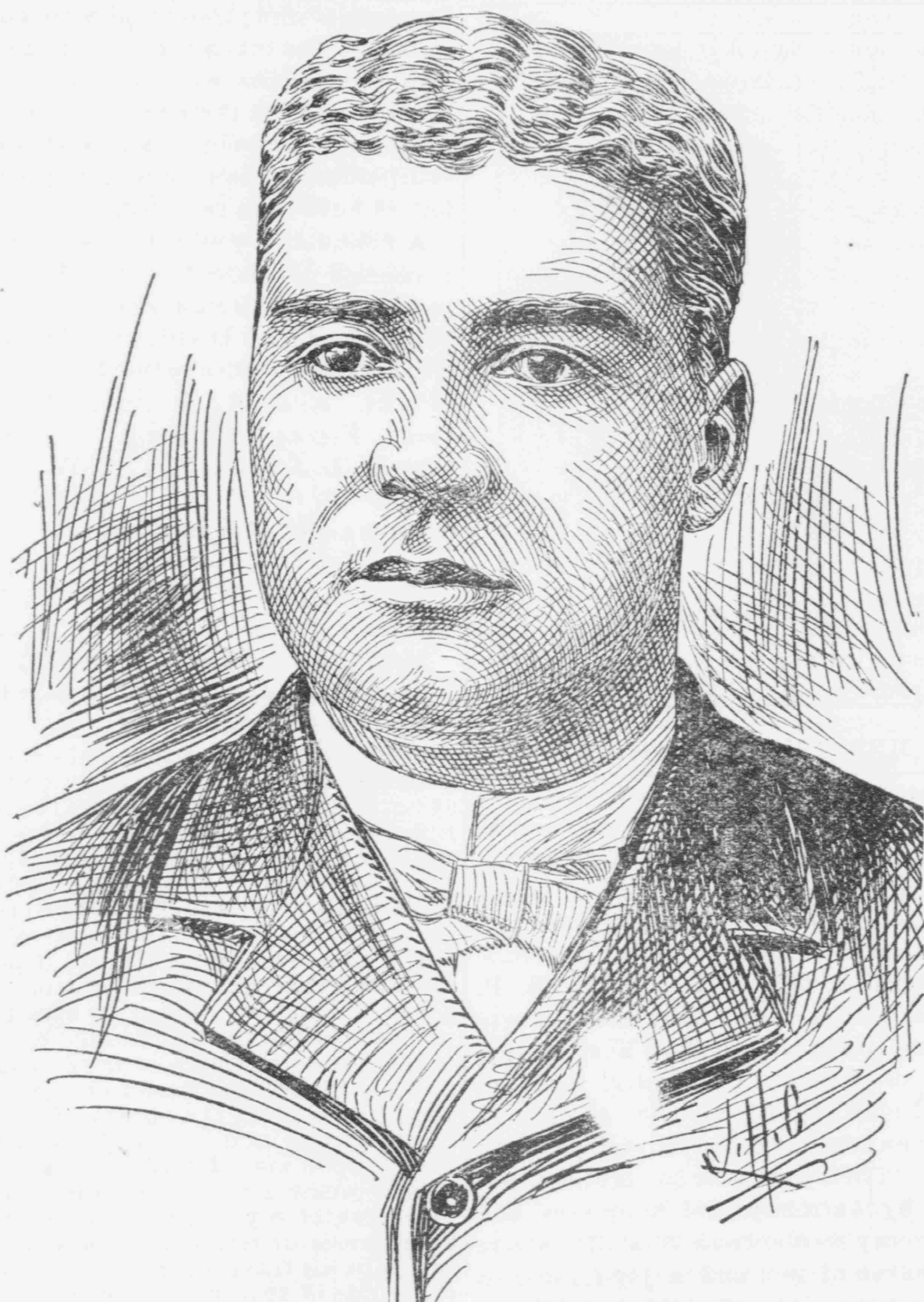
HON. H. P. CHEATHAM.

An Ex-Congressman Who is Popular With all Classes His Clean Record as Recorder of Deeds for the District of Columbia, and His Splendid Executive Ability.

No leader of the race is better known or more highly esteemed by the members of his own and of the Anglo-Saxon race, than Hon. H. P. Cheatham, the able and efficient Recorder of Deeds of the District of Columbia. Mr. Cheatham's career, his amiable qualities, his easiness of approach, his intense love of his race, and his patient, practical sagacity coupled with a rational conservatism have centered upon him the attention of the whole country in a marked degree.

As Recorder of Deeds of the District of Columbia, Mr. Cheatham has increased his already excellent reputation as a man of affairs and administrative officer. He brought to the discharge of the duties of his office when appointed at the beginning of the present administration, a very full and ripe experience both of men and of office routine. Having served as county Recorder of Deeds in his native State in the earlier days of his career, he was not unfamiliar with the duties of a similar office in the capital of the nation.

In the office of the Recorder of Deeds of the District of Columbia is kept the records of the title to, transfer and encumbrance of all the real estate in the District. The efficient conduct of the affairs of this office is therefore a matter of the greatest concern to all holders or intending purchasers of real estate in the federal district. The work of the office is done by what is known as the "piece" method. That is to say, the employees engaged in the work of recording deeds, receive a fixed sum for each instrument recorded, instead of a daily, monthly or other salary compensation. The number of persons to be employed in copying deeds is not fixed by law, but is a matter left to the discretion of the Recorder to be determined in accordance with the volume of business in the office. This, of course fluctuates from time to time. In addition to this, the patronage of the office is outside the classified civil service. From these conditions it results that there has always been very great pressure brought to bear upon the Recorder to appoint persons to the position of copyists. As may be naturally expected, no Recorder has been able to fully meet the desires and wishes of all who have sought these appointments



HON. HENRY P. CHEATHAM,
Recorder of Deeds for the District of Columbia.

either for themselves or for others. In consequence of this, every Recorder has been the object, at times, of criticism in this matter of the dispensation of patronage.

With the great extensions of the operations of the civil service laws during the closing months of President Cleveland's administration, the office of the Recorder of Deeds of the District of Columbia was the only office of national repute not touched by the scope of these extensions. By reason of this fact, Mr. Cheatham, on assuming the duties of the office, was besieged as no previous Recorder had ever been, by persons seeking appointments under him. He took hold of the matter with a caution and circumspection characteristic of the man. And now at the end of nearly four years the clerical force of the office ranks number one, in efficiency, the work is dispatched with neatness and accuracy, improved methods have been inaugurated, the person-

nel and morale of the force is most excellent, and all persons having business with the office are pleased with its conduct and management.

It is no small achievement that Mr. Cheatham has managed the office under the conditions described with such signal success. It should be a matter of just pride not only to Mr. Cheatham and his friends; but also to the whole race and those who wish the best things for the race, that he has shown real administrative capacity, and a high faculty for grasping and dealing with delicate and intricate conditions.

He's A Trojan.

Col. Edward E. Cooper, the journalistic Trojan, is treating the readers of The Colored American to a spicy cartoon, touching upon the race problem in every issue of his paper. Col. Cooper is a "hot tamale." W. T. MENARD.

BISHOP FOWLER'S ELOQUENCE.

His Hopeful Predictions for the Afro-American Before the Washington Conference—A Great Gathering of Ministers and Delegates—Notes.

Wheeling, W. Va., Special.—The Washington Conference convened its 58th session in Fourth street church, Wheeling, March 20th, 1901, Bishop C. H. Fowler, presiding. After administration of the Lord's supper by the Bishop and Presiding Elders, Rev. E. W. S. Peck, D. D., Secretary of last conference called roll and 126 members were present. Rev. John A. Holmes was elected secretary, with Revs. J. E. Gunby, W. H. Gaines, C. E. Hodges, and S. A. Virgil, assistants.

Rev. John H. Griffin was elected treasurer with Revs. J. H. E. Carter, Eljan Ayers, G. S. Lawrence, W. P. Ryder, C. G. Key, Rev. C. C. Brown, assistants. Rev. M. J. Naylor was elected statistical secretary, with Revs. C. G. Cummings, J. W. Carroll, William Smith, J. M. Bean, assistants.

The welcome addresses were made by Revs. Drs. Archibald Moore, Presiding Elder Wheeling district West Va. Conference and S. T. Westhafer, pastor of Fourth street church in which the conference was held. Responses were made by Rev. T. B. Snowden of Huntington, W. Va., and Bishop Fowler. The Bishop with words of burning eloquence pictured the future of the Negro race. In a century from now, said he, there will be one hundred million of colored people in the United States.

Think, said he, of some colored leader being able to rally about him an army of 20,000,000 colored soldiers, then see if there is a problem for the future. This increase will be without a single individual coming from abroad, because they increase more rapidly than the white race.

He said: There is but one way to make this vast concourse of people an element of strength, that is to educate them both mentally and morally. He told of the advancement the colored race had made and the great good our schools and colleges had done the race, in that not a single graduate of one of our schools had ever been lynched or put into the chain gang of the South.

Prof. I. C. Cabell of Moundville, West Va. was elected conference reporter. The Revs. L. J. Valentine, E. W. S. Peck, N. M. Carroll, S. H. Brown, N. M. Clair and J. T. Ourings, Presiding Elders of Alexandria, North Baltimore, South Baltimore, Staunton and Wheeling districts respectively, made flatter-

(Continued on 8th page.)